1789.

Regulations of the
Eastern Dispensary in
White Chapel

AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

Eaſtern Diſpenſary,

IN

WHITECHAPEL,

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INTRODUCTION.

VARIOUS are the ranks which compoſe the ſeveral communities of mankind, the welfare and happineſs of which very much depend on a due regard, from ſuch as are of ability, to thoſe in leſs fortunate circumſtances; hence it is acknowledged, that inſtitutions, calculated to relieve the diſeaſes of certain claſſes of people, who by their ſituations in life are unable without aſſiſtance to obtain proper medical care, deſerve to be encouraged by the more affluent; therefore many plans for this laudable purpoſe have of late years been adopted in this metropolis; and experience, the ſureſt guide, has ſtamped with high credit the utility of well-conducted Diſpenſaries to anſwer this end. Influenced by a deſire of extending help in this way to a diſtrict where it is much wanted, a number of gen-

tlemen have eſtabliſhed the EASTERN DISPENSARY, which they truſt will meet with proper attention, as in the limits deſcribed are great numbers of ſuitable objects, who will rejoice to partake of ſuch Chriſtian benevolence. Introductions that preface accounts of other charitable foundations of this kind render a particular illuſtration of their great and general benefit the leſs neceſſary, it being well known, in theſe enlightened and liberal times, that the care and compaſſion of one order of mankind over another is not only the beſt policy, with reſpect to ſociety, but is alſo fulfilling a moſt eſſential religious duty.—Theſe conſiderations, it is hoped, will not fail to produce contributions fully adequate to ſupport this humane eſtabliſhment.

REGU-

REGULATIONS

OF THE

Eaſtern Diſpenſary.

I. THIS Charity conſiſts of a Preſident, Vice-Preſidents, a Treaſurer, and Governors, who ſhall appoint ſuch officers and ſervants as may from time to time be deemed neceſſary.

II. Every

II.

Every perſon ſubſcribing one guinea per annum ſhall be a governor, and entitled to have one patient on the medical or chirurgical liſt at a time, and one lying-in patient in the year; and every perſon ſubſcribing two guineas per annum ſhall be entitled to have two patients on the medical or chirurgical liſt at a time, and two lying-in patients in the year; and, in caſe of a greater ſubſcription, a proportionable number.

III.

All perſons ſubſcribing ten guineas or making up their contribution within the year to that ſum, ſhall be governors for life, and entitled to all the advantages of an annual ſubſcriber of one guinea.

IV.

Upon the payment of a legacy or donation of fifty pounds, or upwards, to this Charity,

Charity, the perſon appointed to pay the ſame ſhall be a governor for life.

V.

Any governor, by ſending notice in writing to the Diſpenſary, may appoint another governor to ſign his letters of recommendation.

VI.

A general meeting ſhall be holden on the firſt Thurſday in January, April, July, and October; at which meetings ſeven governors ſhall conſtitute a board.

VII.

The preſident, vice-preſidents, and treaſurer, or either of them, or any three of the annual committee, have power to call a general meeting at any time, giving at leaſt one week's notice, expreſſing the occaſion of the meeting, by an advertiſement in ſome of the daily papers.

VIII.

Twenty-one governors ſhall be choſen at the firſt general meeting every year, who ſhall form a committee, to meet at the Diſpenſary on the third Thurſday in every month, for conducting the affairs of this Charity. This committee to be open to the preſident, vice-preſidents, treaſurer, and governors for life of this Charity, who ſhall be intitled to vote, except ſuch perſons as may be intereſted in the matter under debate. Three of them ſhall form a quorum, one of whom to be of the choſen committee.

IX.

The laſt committee in October ſhall nominate proper perſons as a committee for the year enſuing, in which not more than fourteen of the former committee ſhall remain, nor any one to be continued in longer than three years ſucceſſively: this nomination to be ſubject to the approbation or alteration of the next general meeting.

X. Five

X.

Five auditors ſhall be appointed annually, to examine the bills and accounts; and no intereſted perſon ſhall be upon the audit.

XI.

A medical committee ſhall alſo be appointed, conſiſting of ſuch governors as practiſe phyſic, ſurgery, or pharmacy, (except thoſe already excepted in the eighth rule,) who ſhall have power to inſpect the drugs and medicines, audit bills for the ſame, and report as they ſhall ſee occaſion to the monthly committee.

XII.

Nobility, members of parliament, ladies, and all governors of this Charity, reſiding out of the bounds for viſiting patients at their own houſes, as alſo all ladies within the limits, may, by letter, appoint other governors to vote for them at any election by ballot; at which no governor ſhall vote who

has not paid his ſubſcription on or before the day preceding the election.

XIII.

No reſolution propoſed at a general meeting, unleſs recommended by the committee, ſhall be entered as a rule, until it is confirmed at a ſucceeding general meeting.

XIV.

That the committee do appoint twelve governors (two or more to attend each day) to be houſe-viſitors, to examine and ſee that the regulations of the Charity are carried properly into execution, and report the ſtate of the houſe to the monthly meeting. They ſhall alſo be empowered to appoint a perſon, to do the buſineſs of any of the officers, in caſe of ſickneſs or death, until the meeting of the next committee.

XV.

No ſervant of the Charity is to preſume, at any time, to take, of any tradeſman,

Patient

patient, ſervant, or others, any fee, reward, or gratuity, of any kind, directly or indirectly, for any ſervice done, or to be done on account of the Diſpenſary, on pain of being immediately diſcharged.

XVI.

The ſervants of this Charity are always to be in waiting, at the time of the general meetings and committees, to anſwer ſuch queſtions, and do ſuch buſineſs as may be required by the chairman.

XVII.

That, if any patient ſhall be diſcharged for irregularity, the governor who recommended that patient be informed of it immediately by letter from the apothecary.

XVIII.

That, for the future, no election of officers, except the preſident, vice-preſidents, or treaſurer, be made until at leaſt twenty days after the public declaration of

a

a vacancy; and, if more than one candidate appear, the election ſhall be by ballot.

XIX.

Every patient, who brings a letter of recommendation from a governor, ſhall receive advice and medicines at the Diſpenſary without regard to place of abode.

MONTHLY COMMITTEE.

They ſhall take into conſideration all matters reſpecting the well-conducting this Charity; and, if it hereafter appear neceſſary to alter the preſent regulations, or ſubſtitute or add new ones, they ſhall report the ſame to the next general meeting.

They ſhall examine the ſeveral tradeſmens accounts, and order payment for thoſe which have paſſed a due inſpection.

They ſhall appoint twelve governors as houſe-viſitors, to ſuperintend the due obſervance of all the foregoing laws for the good management of this Diſpenſary; who ſhall report

report their proceedings from time to time to the monthly committee.

They ſhall do as directed in the eighth reſolution of general rules and orders.

HOUSE VISITORS.

To attend every day in the hours of buſineſs at the Diſpenſary, to inſpect the conduct of the officers and ſervants; to ſee that the patients behave with propriety, and in conformity to the rules and orders; and that the apartments are always in order for the reception of the medical officers and committee.

PHYSICIAN.

Attendance ſhall be given at the Diſpenſary by the phyſician twice a week, at nine o'clock in the morning, to write for the out-patients: he ſhall viſit the home-patients at their reſpective places of abode when neceſſary. By out-patients are to be underſtood, ſuch whoſe diſorders do not confine them;

them; by home-patients, ſuch as are abſolutely unable to attend, but who reſide within the following limits, viz, From London-Bridge to Ratcliff-Croſs, (by the river) and thence through Brook-Street, up the New-Road, extending along Whitechapel and Houndſditch, to Biſhopſgate Church, and ſo down Gracechurch-Street to the Bridge.

Should indiſpoſition, or any other reaſonable cauſe, prevent the phyſician from attending, he ſhall appoint ſome other phyſician in his ſtead.

His pupils may have liberty to attend the patients of this Charity with him.

SURGEON and ACCOUCHEUR.

He ſhall attend at the Diſpenſary every morning at nine o'clock, if he thinks it neceſſary, but not leſs than twice a week, to examine all thoſe patients who ſhall come under his care; he ſhall viſit ſuch patients at their own houſes, within the diſtrict of this Diſpenſary, whoſe caſes render them unable to attend.

His

His pupils may have liberty to attend him at this Charity; but they ſhall not preſcribe, nor perform any operation, but by his immediate direction, and in his preſence.

Should indiſpoſition, or any other reaſonable cauſe, prevent him from attending, he ſhall appoint in his ſtead a Surgeon of the Corporation of Surgeons of London to attend this Charity.

That the ſurgeon and accoucheur ſhall procure a perſon or perſons qualified to attend common caſes.

APOTHECARY.

He ſhall reſide in the houſe to receive letters of recommendation; to compound and diſpenſe the medicines preſcribed; and ſhall not undertake or attend any buſineſs whatſoever but that of this Charity. He ſhall be careful of every thing appertaining to the Diſpenſary, and ſee that nothing is waſted, ſpoiled, or embezzled; that the apartments and committee-room are always

in

in order, fit for the reception of the officers, and for the uſe of the committee.

He ſhall on no account abſent himſelf from the houſe, without leaving a note where he is to be met with on any emergency; he ſhall not abſent himſelf one whole day or night, without leave firſt obtained from the preſident, vice-preſidents, treaſurer, monthly committee, or one of the houſe-viſitors; in which caſe he ſhall provide another apothecary to do the buſineſs for him, and that with the approbation of the perſon or perſons who granted ſuch leave of abſence.

He ſhall examine the rights of the letters of recommendation, and keep regular books, with a regiſter of the patients under cure, their time of admiſſion, by whom recommended, and when diſcharged,

SECRETARY.

He ſhall perſonally attend all meetings and committees, at the appointed hours, unleſs

unleſs prevented by any unforeſeen accident, in which caſe he ſhall ſend a deputy.

The proceedings of this Charity he ſhall keep accurately and methodically, and do all the incidental buſineſs requiſite, which the ſecretaries of other charities or hoſpitals are accuſtomed to do.

COLLECTOR.

He ſhall produce two or more ſecurities, for the approbation of the monthly committee, who ſhall be bound with him in a bond of 250*l.* for the faithful performance of his official duty.

He ſhall collect the ſubſcriptions to this Charity regularly, as they become due, under the treaſurer's directions, to whom, or to the bankers, he ſhall pay them in as often as required, he ſhall not retain to the amount of 50*l.* in his poſſeſſion, more than ſeven days under pain of being diſcharged.

He ſhall ſummon committees, and deliver recommendatory letters when he re-receives any ſubſcriptions.

He

He ſhall attend the monthly committee at all their meetings, and account to them as he ſhall be required.

PATIENTS.

Out-patients ſhall carry their letters of recommendation to the Diſpenſary, any day of the week, (Sunday excepted), from nine to ten o'clock, to be admitted and receive advice.

Out-patients ſhall attend the phyſician or ſurgeon, at the Diſpenſary, who firſt received them under his care, on the days of his attendance.

Home-patients ſhall ſend their letters of recommendation to the Diſpenſary any day of the week (Sunday excepted) by nine o'clock, to be preſented to the phyſician.

Home-patients ſhall ſend their letters of recommendation to the Diſpenſary, on the days of attendance of the phyſician or ſurgeon under whoſe care they have been received.

If

If any patient ſhall neglect to attend the phyſician or ſurgeon, at the Diſpenſary, for ten days, ſuch patient ſhall be diſcharged.

They ſhall keep their letters of recommendation under cover, in order to preſerve them clean.

They ſhall furniſh themſelves with phials, &c. neceſſary to contain their medicines.

They ſhall behave themſelves ſoberly and decently, and ſtrictly conform to ſuch rules as ſhall be given them, or be immediately diſmiſſed.

When cured, they ſhall deliver up their letters of recommendation to the Diſpenſary, and return thanks to the governor who recommended them; on neglect of which, they ſhall not receive any farther favour from this Charity.

Patients, whoſe diſorders require only a repetition of their medicines, muſt ſend for them between the hours of four and ſix in the afternoon.

If

If complaint be made by any patient for ill treatment, the governor, who recommended her or him, by applying to the houſe-viſitors, will be fully ſatisfied of the affair, or the cauſe removed.

To ſuch as are inclined to become benefactors by will, the following form of a will is recommended.

Item, I give and bequeath unto A. B. and C. D. the ſum of to be raiſed and paid by and out of my perſonal eſtate and effects, which, by law, I may or can charge with the payment thereof, upon truſt, and to the intent that they, or either of them, do pay the ſame to the Treaſurer [for the time being] of a Charity, called or known by the name of THE EASTERN DISPENSARY FOR RELIEF OF THE POOR, inſtituted in the Year 1782; which ſaid ſum I deſire may be applied towards carrying on the benevolent deſigns of the ſaid Charity.

APPENDIX.

Additional Regulations.

I.

NO perſon ſhall be elegible to the office of phyſician to this Charity who has the care of, or is phyſician to, any other Charity.

II.

No phyſician or ſurgeon to this diſpenſary ſhall, during the time he ſhall retain his office, be elegible for a member of the monthly committee or to act in that capacity.

III.

No perſon ſhall be continued a patient of this Charity longer than two months, unleſs

unleſs with the approbation of the phyſician or ſurgeon, under whoſe care ſuch patient may be.

IV.

The phyſician and ſurgeon ſhall attend the monthly committe whenever required.